

Barren Co. ATC Students Become Dragon Slayers of a Different Kind

Brandon Riddle, a machine tool technology student, was responsible for maneuvering the monster's head and providing parade goers with a thrill each time the big green dragon pivoted its head and blew smoke.



KY Tech students across the state demonstrate their ingenuity on a daily basis, but those at the Barren Co. Area Technology Center (ATC) recently took that one step further in getting ready for Glasgow's "Holiday in the Highlands" Christmas parade.

Barren Co. ATC students have participated

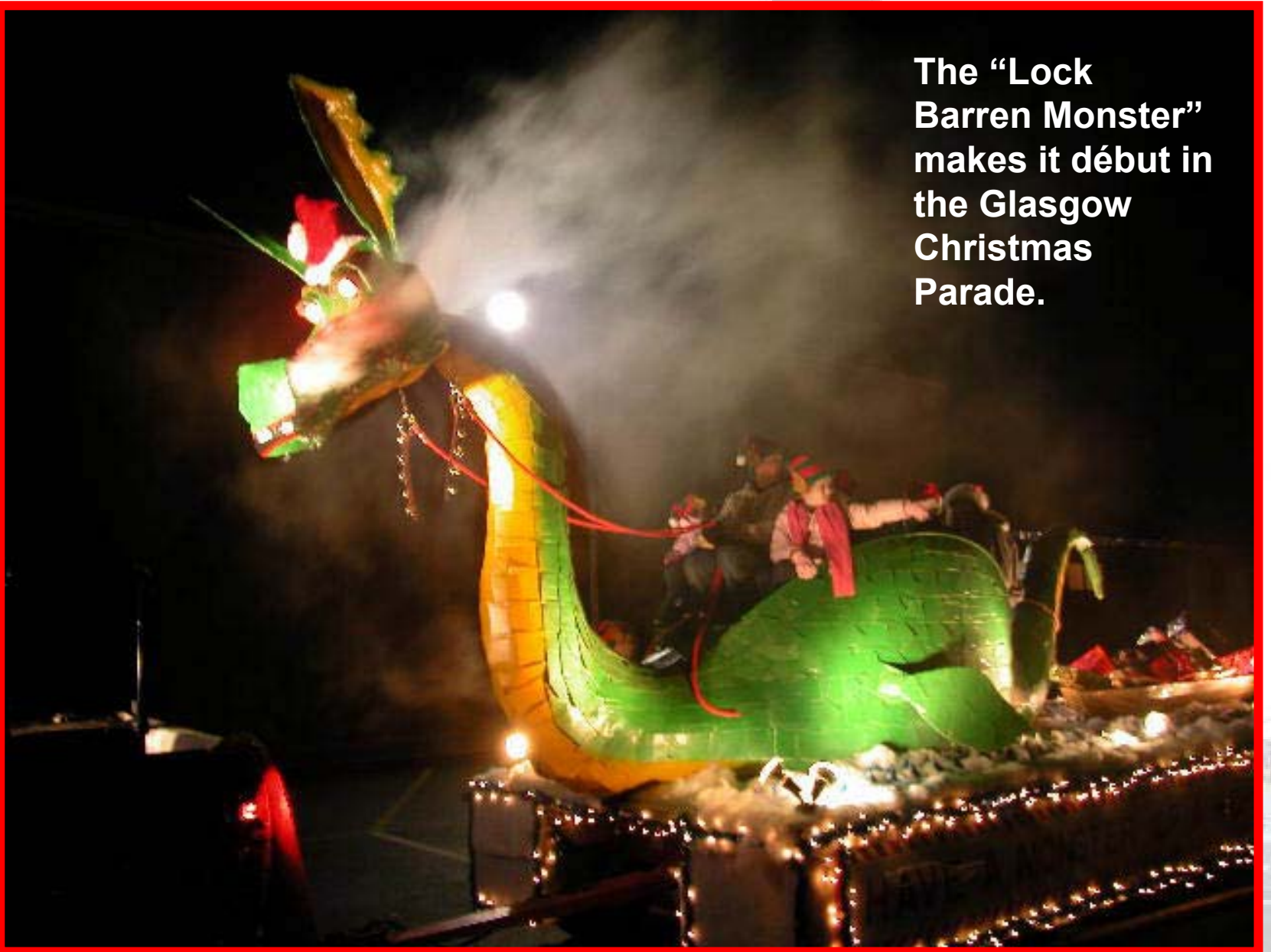
in the parade for close to 30 years. This year was no different. SkillsUSA VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America), HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) students let their imaginations run wild in designing, constructing and

sponsoring the “Have a Monster of a Highland Holiday” themed float. The ATC’s “Lock Barren Monster” was one of 170 entries in this year’s parade - which has become one of the largest in the state. The ATC float won the Grand Marshall award and received a \$200 cash prize.

Talk about collaboration and teamwork - Carpentry Instructor Kent Hood worked with his students to form the body of the monster. Barry Jackson’s welding students fabricated a metal frame for the head, neck and tail of the creature. Under the direction of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Instructor Brent Claywell, students assembled the flexible ductwork to enable the dragon’s head to move left and right while blowing smoke out the nostrils. Electricity students, under the watchful eye of instructor Greg Felkins, wired the float for lighting and the smoke generator. Students in Carl Owens’ computer aided drafting program designed and constructed the banners and signage for the float. Ray Hammer’s automotive technology students installed the generator to power the float. Darren Johnson’s information technology



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students created the monster's three-dimensional head using papier-mache techniques they researched on the internet. Machine tool technology students in Brian Janes' classes assisted in the construction of the hinges used to connect the monster's head and neck. Health science students in Joni Edwards' classes conceived the idea for the float based on the parade theme. HOSA and FBLA students in Ashley Bell's office technology classes aided in the construction of over 400 individual green scales for the monster. They also assisted with the decorations for the entire float. And talk about school camaraderie - Pam Morgan, the ATC's secretary, played a major role in this project by creating the "Santa Hat" to add to the Christmas spirit of the monster.

"Students from all ten of our programs participated in this collaborative project and are extremely proud of their accomplishment," says Barren Co. ATC Principal Hal Toms.

"At the request of Barren River State Park Manager Bobby Lee Hurt, we have donated the 'Lock Barren Monster' (nick-named 'Bessie') for use in the 2004 Glasgow Highland Games. Once again, the work of our students will be showcased to people from all over the world," added Toms.

Good News Flash #49
January 22, 2004

